LISTEN UP!!

ON THE ROOF IN FIVE MINUTES!! IF YOU'RE LATE, IT'S MEAT BUN PUNISHMENT FOR YOU!!

GYAH HA HA HA HA HA!

AND IF YOU SQUEAL, IT'S THE CHAR SIU PUNISHMENT!!

HFF!

HFF!

HFF!

I—

HARU.....

—BOY.....

AH!

DOSA (WHUMP)

I.....!!

NNGH...

UGH.....

AH.....

YOU'RE ...?

—DON'T YOU WANT TO GO FARTHER, BOY?

DON'T YOU WANT TO <ACCELERATE>?

CHAPTER
#01

KUI (SWF)
ええ…

CLICK CLICK

KUI (JAB)
ええ

NIVA (LEER)
ええ

KUI
ええ

CHIRA (PEEK)
ええ

……IT'S FROM ARAYA. JUST KNOW IT.

KUI (SHUDDER)
ええ

PIKON (DING)
ええ

You have one new e-mail.

BOOOM

HEY, HEY, PIGGY ARITAAA!!

TODAY'S ORDER! C'MON!!

PI (BEEP)

ピッ

Play sound file.

>>> pig-order/////

BRING THEM TO THE ROOF FIVE MINUTES AFTER LUNCH STARTS!!

TWO YAKISOBA BUNS!! ONE CREAM MELON BUN AND THREE STRAWBERRY YOGURTS!!

KAAAN (DANNNG)

KOOON (DONNNG)

KOOON

KIIIN (DIIING)

ワイ
WAI
(CHATTER)

AND THEN, LIKE...

WAI

ワイ
WAI

AH HA HA...

LET'S GO!

FOR REAL?

DON (WHAM)

OH! MY BAD!

HARUYUKI, I CHARGED ¥500 TO YOU FOR LUNCH MONEY.

'KAY. I'M GOING TO SCHOOL NOW.

GUUUUU (GRUMBLE)

.....

I'M SO HUNGRY.....

THE MONEY ENDS UP GETTING USED ON THEM.....

SORRY, MOM.....

I'VE SAVED ALL THE MESSAGES FROM ARAYA.....

IF I JUST HAND THEM OVER TO THE SCHOOL AS EVIDENCE, THEN—!!

SU (SHF)

—HOW LONG AM I GONNA KEEP GOING LIKE THIS?

GU (CLENCH)

—THE LATTER HALF OF THE 2040s

<NEURO-LINKERS>—PORTABLE TERMINALS SUPPORTING ALL OF THE FIVE SENSES WITH IMAGES, SOUND, AND OTHER STIMULI—HAVE SPREAD TO ALL CORNERS OF SOCIETY...

...AND HALF OF EVERYONE'S DAILY LIVES TAKES PLACE ON VIRTUAL NETWORKS.

BUT IN THE END, EVERY HUMAN BEING IS STILL JUST AN EXISTENCE BOUND BY THE CHAINS OF A <FLESH-AND-BLOOD BODY>.

AND IF YOU SQUEAL, IT'S THE CHAR SIU PUNISH-MENT!

BIKU (SHUDDER)

—I CAN'T DO IT!!!

IF HE HITS ME, IT'LL HURT.

AND CRYING 'COS IT HURTS IS SO PATHETIC I COULD DIE—

I THROW IT AWAY— THE REAL ME.

DIRECT LINK.

ぼそ BOSO (WHISPER)

THAT'S WHY I .....

ドス DOSU (THUMP)

グゥ GUUU (GROWL)

ギシ GISHI (CREAK)

KIIIN (SKREEE)

<FULL DIVE>

PIPI (BEEP)

POU (GLOW)

—Umesato Junior High School
You are now logged into the school's local network.

THIS WAY..... I DON'T FEEL HUNGRY.

NADE (PAT)

なで

なで

NADE

EVEN IF I CAN ONLY SPEND LUNCH HOUR HERE...

...IT MAKES IT A LITTLE BETTER AT LEAST.....

TA (DASH)

TA (TAK) TA TA...

THAT'S .....

SECOND YEAR STUDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL—

KURO-YUKI-HIME, AKA. SNOW BLACK.

SHE'S SOMEONE YOU HARDLY EVER SEE.

BUT IT TOOK ME DAYS TO MAKE THIS.....!!

GIMME!!

OOH, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD SUCH A FANCY AVATAR?

GYAH HA HA HA!

SHUT UP!! USE THIS, YOU LITTLE PORKER!! IT'S MORE YOUR STYLE!!

.....

SHE BASICALLY RECREATED HER BEAUTIFUL REAL SELF.

AN EXQUISITE, GORGEOUS ORIGINAL AVATAR.

I.....

DA (DASH)

EVEN MY VIRTUAL SELF IS...

HEY!

HAAH.

OGIN : Haruyuki Arita

HISCORE
LV 149 2467328 PTS

PI
(BEEP)

PI

PI

PI

IT'S NOT POPULAR, SO THE AREA'S DESERTED.

THIS IS THE PLACE FOR ME.

THE <VIRTUAL SQUASH GAME>
.....

KACHA (CHAK)

WHO NEEDS IT ANYWAY.....!!?

FREAKIN' REALITY!

PAKON (THWACK)

START

PON (DING)

DAMMIT..... REALITY!

FU (FWSH)

KA

KA (PLRK)

TK

DAMMIIIIT.....

I HAVE TO...

PAKON (THWACK)

...ACCELERATE!!

...GO FASTER!! FASTER!!

I HAVE TO...

PI (BEEP)

PAKON

PAKON

PAKON

LV 87

>>> SPEED UP

...I CAN BREAK THROUGH...

SO THAT...

LV 146

>>> SPEED UP

HISCORE 2450,340

...EVERY WALL IN THE VIRTUAL WORLD AND EVEN THE REAL WORLD...

...AND GO SOMEWHERE NO ONE ELSE CAN—!

THAT FAST!!

HYUN (WHIZ)

BIKU (JOLT)

AHHHHH —!!

CHI—

CHIYU.....

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU LOCKED YOURSELF UP!!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!

HONESTLY, HARU! YOU DISAPPEAR EVERY LUNCH!

.....HUH?

I MEAN, YOU'RE PLAYING, ALL BY YOURSELF, AND IT'S THIS LAME.....

LEVEL 152? AND A SCORE OF 2,630,000!?

WHAT THE .....!?

T RANKING

	LEVEL	SCORE
1ST	152	2635924 PTS
2ND	149	2467328 PTS
3RD	148	2449783 PTS
4TH	146	2314334 PTS
5TH	145	2309603 PTS

HARU, YOU'RE AMAZING! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT SUCH A HIGH SCORE!!

YEAH .....

DOKI

DOKI

DOKI (BADUM)

"LOG OUT" RIGHT NOW!!

WHAT ARE YOU EVEN DOING..... SKIPPING LUNCH FOR THIS!?

.....I DON'T WANT TO.

.....

...A TOTAL IDIOT!?

—ARE YOU...

カチン
KACHIN (SNAP)

YOU GO.

THERE'S STILL HALF AN HOUR LEFT OF LUNCH.

RETRY

ピロン
PI (BEEP)

ぼそっ
BOSO (WHISPER)

.....GO AHEAD IF YOU CAN.

...I'LL JUST HAVE TO USE FORCE!!

IF YOU'RE GONNA BE LIKE THAT...

—OKAY, FINE!!

BLEEEEEH!

MUSSU (IRK)

<LINK OUT>!!

—I GUESS SHE WENT BACK OVER TO THE REAL SIDE.....

GAN (WHAM)

! WARNING
Forced logout

!!?

HYUN (FWOOSH)

CHI—

CHIYU ……

HA (GASP)

H-HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE!!?

THIS IS THE BOYS' BATHROOM, Y'KNOW !?

SURU

SURU (WRIGGLE)

YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THIS?

……OHH, SO THAT'S HOW YOU GOT IN.

AND I LOCKED THE DOOR! HOW DID YOU—!?

HYO! (SPROING)

GYO (GAPE)

CAN'T BE SEEN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...!

OH GOOD. THERE'S NO ONE IN THE HALL.

HOW'D YOU KNOW I WAS HERE?

ANYWAY, CHIYU .....

C'MON, COME OUT ALREADY, HARU.

.....FIIINE.

.....YOU SAW?

.....

I WAS ON THE ROOF BEFORE TOO.....

SO I FOLLOWED YOU.

.....

PA (SNATCH)

BUT!

YOU SHOULD EAT LUNCH AT LEAST!!

HERE! I MADE ONE FOR YOU!!

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, HARU .....

I..... I WON'T BUTT IN ABOUT THEM ANYMORE.

KYOTON (SHOCK)

WHAT!?

.....ARE THESE THE LEFTOVERS FROM THE LUNCH YOU MADE FOR TAKU?

I'M PATHETIC.....

.....

AW, C'MON!

I CAN'T GUARANTEE IT'LL TASTE GOOD, THOUGH.

PLEASE STOP..... PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU TO STOP!!

NO WAAAY! TAKKUN EATS THE SCHOOL LUNCH AT HIS SCHOOL.

SEE? HERE, SANDWICHES.

BUT THEY'RE YOUR FAVORITES, HARU—!

TO YOUR PITY, I SAY—

—I MEAN, SHE HAS A BOY-FRIEND.

IT'S JUST 'COS WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOREVER.

IT DOESN'T MEAN SHE LIKES ME.

IT'S JUST POTATO SALAD AND HAM AND CHEESE.

BASHI (WHAP)

NO, THANKS ...!!

BECHA- (SPLAT)

HA (GASP)

ACK.....

HARU .....

I'M THE WORST—
.....!

I.....
I.....

GU (CLENCH)

I CAN'T ..... I JUST CAN'T .....!!

NO.....

I COULD GO SEE HER NOW .....

OR MAYBE I COULD WAIT FOR HER ON HER WAY HOME.....

I GOTTA APOLOGIZE TO HER.....

...DIVE.....

..... FULL...

BOSO (WHISPER)

You are now logged into...

...the school's local network.

I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO APPROACH CHIYU OR WHAT TO SAY TO HER—

TOBO (TRUDGE)

トボ

I KNOW. I KNOW, BUT—

—RUNNING AWAY TO THE SCHOOL NETWORK IS.....

BEST RANKING

	LEVEL	SCORE
1ST	166	3749182 PTS
2ND	152	2635924 PTS
3RD	149	2467328 PTS
4TH	149	149783 PTS
		34 PTS

LEVEL..... 166!?

THAT'S MORE THAN TEN LEVELS HIGHER THAN ME FROM BEFORE ...!!

WHAT .....!?

BA (WHIP)

CHIKA (BLINK)

Virtual Cub Game

TOBO トボ

TOBO トボ

LEVEL 166

BEST 166

2ND 152

3RD 14

WHO THE HECK COULD GET SUCH A CRAZY SCORE .....!?

BOY.

BIKU (JUMP) ビク

BA

AH.....

YOU'RE .....

KUROYUKIHIME——!!

—SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO...

...GOT THAT RIDICULOUS SCORE OVER LUNCH?

TSUKA

UWAH! SHE'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME ……!!

B-BUT THERE'S NO ONE ELSE HERE BUT ME ……

NO, THAT CAN'T BE. I'M TOTALLY GETTING THE WRONG IDEA.

TSUKA (RUSTLE)

TSUKA

SHE'S TALKING TO…… ME!?

HUH?

BIKU (JUMP)

TSU (SSP)

HMM ……?

DON'T YOU WANT TO <ACCELERATE>?

DON'T YOU WANT TO GO FARTHER, BOY……?

GASA RUSTLE

U—!
.....UWAH.

SHE'S REALLY HERE.....

YAKISOBA BREAD AND CREAM MELON BREAD AGAIN TODAY! GOT IT!!?

I-I REALLY DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO BE DOING THIS.....

I DON'T, BUT...

.....

IF YOU DO...

...COME TO THE LOUNGE AT LUNCH TOMORROW.

—I DON'T, BUT...

GU (CLENCH)

HERE I GO!!

—DAMMIT!

HISO

No way... It's second term already. How could he not know .....?

HISO

Doesn't he know that first-years aren't allowed in the lounge?

HISO

Isn't he a first-year?

HISO (PSST)

Hey... That tie.

HISO

Err. .....Um!

MOGO (MUMBLE)

OH .....?

DID YOU NEED SOME-THING?

MOJI (FIDGET)

もじ…

PATAN (SHUT)

PA (BEAM)

—WELL, BOY!

YOU CAME!!

JIRO

JIRO (STARE)

O-OH, SURE .....

I'M THE SOME-THING.

SORRY, WOULD YOU MIND FINDING ANOTHER SEAT?

GATA (CLATTER)

SFX: GOSO (DIG)

HUH?

SU (SWF)

ZAWA (MURMUR)

KACHI (CHIK)

!!?

THAT REALLY IS WHAT SHE WANTS ME TO DO —!!

YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING BESIDES STICK IT IN YOUR NECK, CAN YOU?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN .....?

UH..... UMM!

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO..... WITH THIS?

...BASICALLY HAS NO SECURITY, UNLIKE THE USUAL WIRELESS TRANSMISSION.

CALLED <DIRECTING> FOR SHORT, THIS ACTIVITY...

Wired Connection Connected...

CONNECTING NEUROLINKERS WITH A DIRECT CABLE.

<DIRECT WIRED CONNECTION>

カチ (CHIK)

Wired Connection

THIS IS WHY DIRECTING IS RESERVED FOR PEOPLE BOUND BY A STRONG SENSE OF TRUST.

PARENT, SIBLINGS, AND—

Sorry for asking you to go out of your way to come here.

Now then .....

Can you think-talk?

Haruyuki Arita-kun.

LOVERS.

Y.....

Yes .....!!

トクン TOKUN

トクン TOKUN (BADUM)

Some kind of..... um..... elaborate prank or .....?

Hm?

Uh..... Umm..... What exactly is this..... about?

...want to change your world?

!?

Do you .....

.....

MY WORLD...

—DESTROYED!?—

TSUJI (FWP)

...sending an application to your Neuro-linker.

If you accept it...

...the world you have known till now will be completely and utterly destroyed...

...and then rebuilt into something of which you can't even conceive—

Right now, I'm...

BUOLN DINNG!

!!

Open “BB2039.exe”?

Yes

No

HE BEEP

WHAT THE.....? NO WAY... NO CAN DO!!

I CAN'T POSSIBLY LAUNCH AN UNKNOWN APP...

...FROM SOMEONE I BARELY KNOW .....!!

I MEAN, IF IT'S A VIRUS, WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH SERIOUS DAMAGE IT COULD DO...?

DAMAGE..... BREAK THE WORLD.

..... THE REAL WORLD.....

.....

.....

Yes

Download started 49%

—JUST WHAT I WAS HOPING FOR.....

AS LONG AS...

...THIS WORLD BREAKS.

Download started... ...100%

Complete

MY..... REALITY.....

THE

WORLD !!

OH.....
A SCROLLING
MESSAGE...

LET'S
SEE.....
"WELCOME."

BRAIN BURST

WH-WHAT
THE.....!?

BOOOOO
(FWOOSH)

GOO (WHOOOM)

!!?

WELCOME TO

"TO THE ACCELERATED WORLD"?

ACCELERATED

Well, I was certain you had the aptitude for it.

—Apti-tude?

So...

...you've managed to install it safely.

PAKU (GAPE)

Uh...

Umm.....

PAKU

This <Brain Burst> program. What exactly is it.....?

Mm. The aptitude.

<Brain Burst> can't even be installed in people who...

...don't possess high-level cerebral nerve reaction speed.

'OH.....

For instance... the sort of speed required to get an absurdly high score in a virtual game.

The old me hesitated for two minutes about accepting the program.

I'd even worked out a whole speech to persuade you.....

It seems I was just wasting my time.

If you didn't have the aptitude, you wouldn't have even been able to see the phantom flames or the logo.

—Still, I must say...

TSUI (FWIP),

...your quick decision surprised me.

Er..... A-anyway, nothing seems especially different now that I've installed it!

BA (WHAP)

What!? Oh..... No, well .....

KAAAA (BLUSH)

BIKU (JUMP)

WHY, YOU!!

What is this progr—

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU ARE, YOU TWERP!!!

HEY, PI..... ARITAAA !!

BA! (WHAP)

WHO SAID YOU COULD SKIP OUT ON YOUR ORDERS !!!?

A.....

ARAYA .....!?